



Salem Scoop

Journey Toward the Cross

Each year on the Christian Calendar, we celebrate the season of lent, 40 days of fasting that commemorates Jesus' time fasting in the wilderness. A time in which we reflect on the stuck places in our life where we may be asking ourselves: Why do I not experience joy like others? Why is life so hard? Why am I struggling all the time? Why does everything happen to me? Where is God in all of this? Or you may be feeling like, I want to go to worship, but I have not been in a long time, I do not understand the Bible, and they will think I am weird if I ask questions, or I do not want anyone to see how truly broken I am inside. In all this, you cannot figure out what you need. You might feel like everything is going wrong and just cannot catch a break.

Each year, I am approached by someone who asks me what I am going to give up for Lent? Last year when I was approached with this question, I responded, “nothing, I am going to add something!” They just looked at me funny. I explained that the season of Lent is not about giving up chocolate or something. Instead, it is about moving closer to God. The reason people give up chocolate and other items is related to the spiritual practice of fasting during Lent, which Jesus did when he went to pray in the desert for forty-days and forty-nights before being arrested, crucified, and buried. Fasting eliminates the human desire for things to feed us and turns our attention to the provisions from God. Fasting is about turning our pleasures from the World and turning our attention toward God.

As we journey this last week of the Lenten season, in what we call Holy Week, I challenge you to reflect on where you are in your faith journey. Take time to reflect on the questions you may have or other questions like these: What questions about God or Jesus do you have? What are you struggling with? What is keeping you from receiving wholeness and joy from Christ? What is your heart longing for? What in your life needs to be redeemed and made new? As you reflect, I pray that you will take a step closer to know Christ and experience the resurrected hope that Jesus offers.

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I invite you, as you reflect and move toward Easter Sunday, to join us for worship, community, and fellowship at the following worship opportunities

Maundy Thursday Service , Thursday, April 2nd at 6:00 pm- (in the Sanctuary)

We commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday Service, Friday, April 3rd at 6:00 pm- (at St. Matthews)

Good Friday services remind us of all that Christ was put through and how much he suffered for the transgressions of humanity.

Easter

Sonrise Service, Sunday, April 5th at 7:00 am - (front of Sanctuary)

Breakfast - 8:00 am - (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday School - 9:30 am (Sanctuary Building)

Easter Service - 10:30 am- (Sanctuary)

Come worship with us and experience the Hope and Resurrection that Jesus offers us.

- Pastor Monica

Pastor Monica Childers

828-493-3179

pastor@sumcm.org

PASTORAL



Salem United Methodist Church

1206 Salem Road

Morganton, NC 28655

828-433-6600

www.sumcm.org

Office Hours:

Tuesday & Thursday

12:30 – 6:00 pm

Administrative Assistant: Zachary Cagle

Music: Virginia Robinson & Sue Bunch

Audio & Visual: Bob Harbour & Kevin Fite



Salem UMC,

Thank you so much for your kindness and support during the loss of our beloved James Brown. Your thoughtful words, prayers, and the meal you provided for us have meant more to us than we can fully express. We are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church family. We are truly grateful for your support and care as we navigate this loss.

With heartfelt thanks,

Jodi, Hamilton, and Lucas Brown



To our Church Family,

Thank you for the outpouring of love and support extended to us during Cary's illness and since his passing. Your continued prayers are most appreciated.

With Love,

Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Pastor Moncia will be on vacation Monday, April 6th through Sunday, April 12th. For prayer concerns, please contact Rev. Kim Clardy or the church office. For Pastoral needs, please contact Rev. Jacob Lancaster (704-961-6399).



“cul·ti·vate” –

What does it mean to cultivate?



To cultivate means to prepare land for planting, nurture the growth of crops, or foster the development of relationships, skills, or ideas through care and attention. It involves active effort to improve, refine, or grow something—whether literal (plants, soil) or figurative (hobbies, friendships, programs or business).

In support of Salem's planning and vision for growth and witness to our community, a group of individuals have been working to create and define what different aspects of our children's ministry might look like. In their meetings, the “Cultivate Team” has received multiple resources and personal guidance from our Conference. We ask for your continued prayers as this team continues to discern God's will and direction in developing exciting and faith-based ministries for our next generation!

Additional updates to follow!



Acolyte Ministry

April

5th - Hadley Fite
12th - Daniel Reinke
19th - Lucy Fisher
26th - Finley Fite

Please contact Kay Duckworth to
volunteer or obtain additional info.



USHERS

April

5th - Charles Autrey & Jeff Miller
12th - Wes Bunch & Bruce Pollard
19th - David Childers & Jerry Ramsey
26th - Stephen & Daniel Reinke



Monthly meeting in Fellowship Hall.

Friday, April 10th

12:00 Noon

All women are welcome and invited!

CHOIR PRACTICE WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM



You're Invited!

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 100:1-2 (ESV)



Our sympathy is extended to the Linda Wilson family.
Linda passed away on March 18th.

5TH SUNDAY LUNCH



March 29th

May 31st

August 30th

Church wide Picnic

FOLLOWING WORSHIP (MARCH AND AUGUST)

PICNIC PLACE AND TIME TBD



REMINDER

Please don't forget to bring non-perishable food items for our community blessing box on the third Sunday of each month!

Please contact Clarice (828-413-4862) with any questions or assistance with pickup.

THANK YOU for your support with this community outreach!

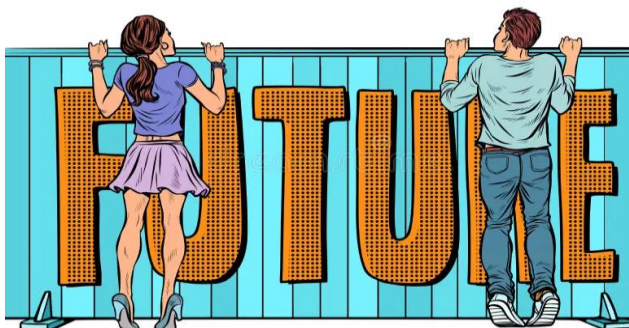
WELCOME NEIGHBOR

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Spicer family to the neighborhood! The Spicer's have moved into the parsonage. When out and about, please say hi!

Music Director Wanted!



Salem UMC is seeking a Music Director that will organize and oversee all music for the church. This is a part time position that will help us live into our vision work in creating engaging worship. Referrals and resume' can be sent to Salem@sumcm.org or to Bob Harbour.



Men's Fellowship



The "Men's Fellowship" group recently met after more than a year hiatus. Over breakfast, discussion took place around what our Men's Fellowship group should look like moving forward. As we imagined the various possibilities, all who were present decided less structure and formal meetings and more informal gatherings that would focus on the "honey do" items around our campus. These get togethers would preferably occur on a weeknight after work and probably include a pizza or two as we work! Stay tuned for additional information about our makeover!

SAVE THE DATE

The Wonder Summit:

REIMAGINING CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP & PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

NOVEMBER 4-6TH 2026
LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION: \$155
REGISTRATION AND WEBSITE GO LIVE EARLY 2026

HOSTED BY

Lake Junaluska

CULTIVATE

Western North Carolina Conference
The Great Work of God



On behalf of the American Red Cross, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your partnership. By hosting the Thursday, March 26, 2026, blood drive, you've made a difference in the lives of moms with complicated childbirths, people fighting cancer, accident or trauma victims, and more. Here is the breakdown of your blood drive:

- 24 Scheduled Donors
- 24 Presenting Donors
- 22 Units Collected (*goal of 25*)
- 20 Whole Blood Units
 - 2 Units from Power Red
 - 0 Deferrals
 - 0 First Time Donors
 - 0 African American Donors
 - 0 Hispanic/Latino Donors

Your blood drive will potentially save up to 66 lives! Your role as a Blood Program Leader reflects a commitment to helping others and a deep sense of community. You are leaving a legacy that directly contributes to the health and wellbeing of individuals in need. We look forward to helping with your next blood drive on June 11, 2026!



Meetings at a Glance!

<p>April 1 - 10:00 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm</p> <p>April 8 - 10:00 am 7:00 pm</p> <p>April 10 - 12:00 pm</p> <p>April 13 - 6:00 pm</p> <p>April 14 - 4:30 pm</p> <p>April 15 - 10:00 am 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Prayer Shawl Mtg Trustee's Mtg. Choir</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. Choir</p> <p>United Women of Faith</p> <p>Girl Scouts</p> <p>Worship Vision Team Mtg.</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. Choir</p>	<p>April 19 - 12:00 pm</p> <p>April 22 - 10:00 am 5:30 pm 7:00 pm</p> <p>April 27 - 5:30 pm 6:00 pm</p> <p>April 29 - 10:00 am 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Church Council Mtg.</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. Finance Team Mtg. Choir</p> <p>Cultivate Team Mtg. Girl Scouts</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Mtg. Choir</p>
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Salem UMC Worship from home!



You can find our worship service broadcasts:
<http://www.youtube.com/@SalemUMCMorganton>
If you have a smart TV, you can even watch the service there. Just search @SalemUMCMorganton in the YouTube app.



Church Council Meeting

Please note there will be a Church Council Meeting on **Sunday, April 19th, at 12:00 Noon.**

(Lunch will be provided)

If you or a member of your team will be unable to attend, please ensure you provide a status report to Charles Autrey prior to the meeting.

Church Council Chair – *Charles Autrey*

SPRC – *Bob Harbour*

Trustees – *Jerry Carroll*

Finance – *Vicki Reinke*

Outreach – *Jodi Brown*

Witness –

Nurture – *Joyce Gibson*

Parsonage – *Lara Autrey*

Secretary – *Barbara Harbour*

UWF – *Virginia Robinson, Kay Pollard*

Lay Leader – *Kevin Reinke*

Our Financial Stewardship

Through March 28

Offerings Received to Date: \$41,525.79

Ministry Expenses to Date: \$48,422.32

(Bolded totals reflected in Offerings received)

Other Ministry Gifts Received to date:

Offerings	\$41,525.79
Backpack	\$ 1,462.50
Building Fund	\$ 455.00
Cemetery	\$ 1,400.00
Souper Bowl	\$ 181.49
Missions Memorial	\$ 377.50
To HELP A FAMILY	\$ 1,000.00
WNCC Pastor Salary	\$ 2,595.00

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4th – Kay Pollard, Dakota Campbell

6th – Denise Magri, Morgan Garrison,
Sue Tucker

9th – Joan Borden, Josh Autrey

14th – Margaret Carswell

20th – Neal Causby

21st – Muriel McNeilly, Savannah Johnston

30th – Cameron Whitener

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

9th – Bob and Barbara Harbour



In Honor and In Memory

Jane Stroup

by Alan Byrd, Doris Ingram, Beulah Duckworth, Kay Duckworth, Ray Duckworth, Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Cary Clark

by Beulah Duckworth, Kay Duckworth, Edith Dale, Troy & Joann Patton, Jerry & Clarice Shuping, Lynda & Joe Woody, Margaret Carswell, Bruce & Kay Pollard, YMCA c/o Susan Pribyson, Martin & Beth Whitaker, Ray Duckworth, Lisa & Mary Ann Propst.

Patsy Lovelace

by Kay Duckworth

Marilyn Davis

by Ray Duckworth

Fred Duckworth

by Ray Duckworth

Clarence & Velna Brendle

by Ray Duckworth

Jean & Lewis Causby

by Ray Duckworth

Troy and Joann Patton

by Ray Duckworth

Linda Wilson

by Alan Byrd, Ray Duckworth, Margaret Carswell, Kay Duckworth, Bruce & Kay Pollard, Jerry & Clarice Shuping

James Brown

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Margaret Carswell

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Kay Duckworth

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Pastor Monica

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Kay Pollard

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Edith Dale

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Joyce Gibson

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Jack Bridges

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Johnnie McLaughlin

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Pietro & Denise Magri

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Tim Keller & Family

by Lisa & Mary Ann Propst

Prayer Concerns



This Week's Prayers

Damian Patton
Joel Thompson
Mikey and Kathy Fite
Marley Byrd
Donna Hightower
Jon Lowdermilk
Mike Dolan
Chelly Franklin
Lloyd Fite
Jeremy and Angela Amick
Ken Berry
Buddy Shields
Randal James
Karen Brittain
Patsy Bridges
Jeanette Stamey
Anna-Grace Rawls
Elizabeth Dale Smith
Trish Johnson
Tanya Speagle
Lorna Damron
BJ Taylor
Hemen Joshi
Tracy Benfield

Homebound

Brenda Autrey
Larry & Janet Koon
Billie & Garland Ross
Leota Garrison

Deaths

Linda Wilson 3-18-26
Sue Tucker's Brother
Cary Clark 2-26-26

Ongoing Prayers

Muriel McNeilly
Steve Stroup
Troy & Joann Patton
Kevin Patton
Zach & Lucy Cagle
Gary & Wanda Byrd
Lisa & Mary Ann
Propst
Kathryn Duckworth
Joe Woody
Roger Hicks

Nursing Home

Doris M Garrison
Brenda Dellinger
Shirley Smith Clarke
Aaron Clardy
Alan Schneider

April

The Church Office will be open every Tuesday & Thursday 12:30 – 6:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 6 pm – Trustee Mtg. 7 pm - Choir	2 6:00 pm - Maundy Thursday Service	3 6:00 pm Good Friday Service @ St. Matthews	4
5 Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise service 8:00 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6	7	8 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	9	10 12:00 – UWF	11 FH Reserved
Pastor Monica on Vacation April 6 – April 12						
12 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	13 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	14 4:30 pm - Worship Vision Team Meeting	15 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	16	17	18
19 9:00 – JIRDC 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 – Worship 12:00 – Church Council 2:00 – Bridal Shower (FH Reserved)	20	21	22 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 5:30 pm - Finance Team Mtg. 7 pm - Choir	23	24	25
26 9:30 – Sunday School 10:30 – Worship	27 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 5:30 pm Cultivate Team meeting	28	29 10:00 – Prayer Shawl 7 pm - Choir	30	31	



Explore Faith...Embody Christ...Embrace Others